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From: canestro [mailto:canestro@mail.lifesci.ucsb.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 11:11 AM

To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Cc: Melissa Miller-Henson

Subject: MLPAComments: Central Coast Project Area selection: Comments from SIG member

Dear Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force,

As a member of the Statewide Interest Group and a University scientist/educator/reserve manager I am writing to add 2 additional comments to my previous comments on Selecting the Central Coast Project Area. My prior comments are copied below for reference.

1. In my first letter I recommended at least the Point Conception to Pigeon Pt./Ano Nuevo/Pecadero Pt. option.

The value of this area linking to the Channel Is. MPA network should be considered a valuable asset, in addition to the rationale I described before (see below). The northern Channel Islands receive larvae (fish and invertebrates) of northern/central California species from the Pt Conception area.

2. If you choose Cambria as the southern boundary of the Central Coast Project Area, you should consider extending the southern boundary to Estero Pt. (Cayucos) as it is a more natural break. It is the last rocky area before the nearly 8 miles of sandy beach that extends from Estero Pt. to the Los Osos/Montana de Oro area.

If you must use Cambria as the southern boundary, I ask that you use the radar station that is 2 miles south of Cambria's southern most residential area and easily visible from sea. This would add the 2 miles of coastline that are part of the University of California's Ken Norris Rancho Marino Reserve to the Central Coast project area. The potential for linked marine and terrestrial reserves, a resident manager for enforcement, previous studies in the area and the valuable habitat (marine mammal haulouts, kelp beds, intertidal) make this area important to include as part of the Central Coast Project Area.

Thanks for your time and please let me know if you have any questions.

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Previous comments (2/9/05):

Dear Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force,

As a member of the Statewide Interest Group and a University scientist/educator/reserve manager I have reviewed the "Proposed Outline of Information Required for Proposals for Alternative Networks of Marine Protected Areas" and the "Draft Criteria for Selecting the Central Coast Project Area". Below is my input on this issue. I have tried to address the specific criteria for selection of the Central Coast Project Area.

The area needs to be large enough to replicate habitat types and provide an effective network for a diverse array of marine species to live, reproduce and settle. Without replication there is little hope for a network of MPAs to be effective or their effects evaluated in a scientific manner. The criteria which suggests the area be limited to the range or area over which resources are utilized by user groups and which a resource user may be expected to have a working knowledge of the resources, may conflict with real biological parameters, and should be given much less consideration.

As Point Conception is the southern boundary of the Central Coast Region from a biogeographic and

DFG management perspective, it should be the southern boundary of the Central Coast Project Area. The biogeographic significance of Point Conception is critical to a functional network of marine protected areas.

Assuming F&G managed fishery areas are based on many of the criteria proposed for central coast region selection (esp. resource availability and use), these areas should be taken into consideration for the determination of the central coast area designation.

An area from Pt Conception to at least Pigeon Pt would include 2 DFG management areas: Monterey South Central and Morro Bay South Central Management Areas. In a previous MLPA effort the Morro Bay region included Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception. In addition to a diversity of marine habitats it would include a diversity of terrestrial habitats each with different management strategies and goals. These include a military base (Vandenberg Air Force Base), PG&E's Diablo Canyon nuclear generating station, numerous state parks, UC reserves, three harbors (Morro Bay, Monterey and Santa Cruz) and Port San Luis. With these harbors comes a wealth of fishermen's first hand expertise/knowledge.

Current mitigation efforts for Diablo Canyon's intake impacts could provide financial resources for the MLPA implementation and monitoring effort.

Among the studies within this region data from (1) UCSB and UCSC Partnership for the Integrated Study of Coastal Oceans <<http://www.piscoweb.org/>>; (2) studies of the impacts of Diablo Canyon (Tenera Corp.); and (3) Minerals Management Service intertidal studies will all provide relevant scientific background information for this area and partners for ongoing research and monitoring. The value of intertidal habitats should not be overlooked, as they are important for the public (probably more, but less organized users than ocean going fishermen), research and education.

Last but not least, as the MLPA network of MPAs is to be science based, it is critical to follow the advice of the Scientific Advisory Team in determining the Central Coast Area and designating MPAs within this area.

Thanks for your time.

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Don Canestro Reserve Director
University of California Santa Barbara
Ken Norris Rancho Marino Reserve
393 Ardath Rd.
Cambria, CA 93428

805 927-6833 voice & fax
canestro@lifesci.ucsb.edu
On line project applications: <http://RanchoMarino.ucnrs.org/>
Overview: <http://www.californiacoastline.org> Images 1927-1938
Lat N 35 32.36/Lon 121 05.70 to Lat N 35 31.36/Lon 121 04.88